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ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1920.

BRYN, NEAR WIGAN,

March 31st, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In pursuance of my duty as Medical Officer of Health, I have pleasure in placing my SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT before you.

Population.—During the war and up to last year the Registrar-General supplied two estimates of the population: one for death-rate purposes, which excluded that part of the male population under arms; the other for birth-rate calculations included these. For the past year, however, demobilisation being practically completed for most districts, only one estimate is given for both purposes, which is 22,110 compared with 21,263 for 1919 and 21,543 for 1911 (the year of the last census).

Physical Features and General Character of the District.—As stated in previous reports, the township forms part of the Wigan Union. It is situated south of the Wigan County Borough, and is bounded on the north-west by Billinge, on the east by Abram and Golborne, and on the south and south-west by Haydock. The area of the district is 6,251 acres.

The whole of the district stands upon the coal-measures, which feature provides the main source of work upon which the population depends. Subsidence through the operations of coal mining are very extensive, both as regards surface extent and depth, and are the cause of much of the dilapidation existing in some of the houses in the township. They also form the chief difficulties in dealing with sewerage, water supply, and roads.

While coal mining is the chief industry—occupying the bulk of the working population, as well as some thousands from the neighbouring districts of Wigan, Billinge, and Orrell—farming is an important industry as well, covering a large part of the 6,000 acres comprising the township.

Further, there is a large spinning mill and a weaving shed, but these absorb only a small portion of the female workers—the remainder going to the mills of Wigan and district.

During the years there have been no additions or extensions to the mills and workshops of the town.

Lock and hingemaking are of considerable extent, but no extensions of any moment have been made during the year.

As expressed in my last report, the mining industry has reached its climax, and there is little to attract other industries to replace this when on the wane. The population in consequence is not expected to increase to any material extent.

Poor Law Relief and Hospital Accommodation.—As stated above, the district forms part of the Wigan Union, and Poor Law administration is effected by the Guardians of the Union, four of whom represent this district. During the year, owing to the good times in the coal trade, only a very small percentage of the population were in receipt of relief. The Union has a fine modern hospital, situated at Billinge, four miles from the centre of our district. For general hospital accommodation we rely upon the excellent voluntary hospitals of Wigan, Liverpool, and Manchester. The infectious diseases hospitals are referred to later in this report.

Vital Statistics.—Appended to the report are several tables relating to Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, Infectious Diseases, and other incidence, etc.

Birth-rate.—The number of births registered in the district during the year is 694—373 males and 321 females. The corrected figures supplied by the Registrar-General are 377 males and 321 females—a total of 698. The figures for 1919 are 271 males and 240 females—a total of 511. It will be seen there has been a notable increase in the birth-rate of 1920 over 1919 amounting to 36 per cent. Referring to Table I., column 4, the descent of the birth-rate up to 1920 was very striking. The birth-rate for the year is 31.5 against 23.07 for 1919. The rate for previous years will be found in column 5, Table I. The number of illegitimate births for the year is 36 (17 boys and 19 girls), compared with 30 for 1919, 13 for 1918, and 15 for 1917.

The Births' Notification Act works very satisfactorily, and the Health Visitor reports to me that there is neither trouble nor delay in the posting of the notifications by the people concerned. The notification figures do not correspond with the registration totals owing to the period of six weeks allowed between notification and registration.

The births notified during each month (classified) are as follows :

BIRTHS NOTIFIED FOR THE YEAR 1920.

	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Live.</i>	<i>Still.</i>	<i>Illegiti- mate.</i>	<i>Notified by Doctors. Midwives.</i>	
January.....	52	50	2	1	5	47
February	73	71	2	5	1	72
March	73	69	4	4	9	64
April	55	54	1	2	1	54
May	70	69	1	2	6	64
June	54	51	3	1	2	52
July	64	62	2	3	4	60
August	51	47	4	1	1	50
September.....	62	59	3	3	3	59
October	52	49	3	4	1	51
November	60	59	1	5	2	58
December	50	46	4	3	1	49
Totals ...	716	686	30	34	36	680

I have stated in previous reports the number of stillbirths (30) does not represent the total loss to the township in the way of diminished population, as there is a further and larger loss in the large number of miscarriages which do not find their way into our statistics ; added to these is the number of congenitally weak babies that live only a few days or even a few hours.

Mortality.—As in previous years, in compiling the figures for the classification of deaths in Tables III. and IV., I have had the weekly returns of the District Registrar, and the quarterly returns of transferable deaths from the County Medical Officer of Health. These are the statistics I report to you each month at the meetings of the Health Committee. They do not quite correspond with the figures in Table IIIA., which is the corrected list for the district supplied by the Registrar-General. The discrepancies are accounted for by the completer information regarding causes of death obtained by that Official from the medical practitioners in attendance at death.

The number of deaths registered within the district during the year was 272. The number of deaths of residents in the district, but who died outside in institutions and while on visits and registered elsewhere, was 29. On the other hand, there were 6 deaths of non-residents that were registered here. Therefore the net deaths of residents in the district equals 295. This makes a death-rate of 13.3 per 1,000 compared with 13.4 for 1919 and 17.6 for 1918. By referring to column 13, Table I., you can make a comparison of the last six years.

In analysing the causes of death, as shown in the corrected list Table IIIA., it will be seen that diseases of the infectious type contributed very largely to the total deaths, and if to these are added the large number of deaths from Congenital Debility, we find that approximately half the total deaths are due to what are termed preventable causes.

Influenza was prevalent, particularly in the middle of the first half of the year, and the death-rate was high from this cause and from Pneumonia its concomitant—45 from these in the first six months.

Measles was epidemic in the first half of the year, and accounted for 9 deaths.

The Scarlatina Epidemic was continued from the previous year, and only declined in the middle of the year, fortunately with only 2 deaths.

Enteric was not epidemic, though we had 8 cases notified and dealt with in hospital; 4 ending fatally.

Whooping Cough following in the wake of Measles became epidemic during the last quarter of the year, attacking principally children under 3 years. There was 1 death during that period.

Diphtheria.—There was only 1 death from this cause, though the disease was fairly prevalent in a mild form; 23 cases being notified.

The Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) rate is decidedly lower than last year, though it is still a fairly heavy one. There were 13 deaths from this cause against 21 for 1919 and 10 for 1918. The rate is 0.58 per 1,000 inhabitants compared with 0.98 in 1919.

For the purpose of comparison in some measure, I would refer you to Table V. in regard to infectious diseases.

Bronchitis with 24 deaths, and other Respiratory Diseases with 4, when added to the number for Pneumonia (45) make a total of 73 deaths from Respiratory Diseases.

Violence.—Of deaths from this cause there were 11: 5 from mine accidents, 2 from drowning, and 4 from domestic accidents. To these should be added 3 from suicide.

Infant Mortality.—While the number of births for the year has been exceptional, the number of infant deaths has more than kept pace. There is a total of 77 against 53 for 1919. Indeed, the total is the highest for the last seven years, with the exception of 1915. The difference is wholly due to Congenital Debility, that is premature birth and constitutional weakness at birth. Table IV. and the Health Visitor's investigations shown in her report reveal this; 17 lived less than a week and a total of 28 less than a month.

We have traced 33 as being due to this cause. Pneumonia and Enteritis are the other principal causes of the high mortality: 28 being due to them and 3 to Measles. Of the 77 deaths, 6 were of illegitimate babies. The percentage of deaths of the latter is 16; of the legitimate, 9.3.

The infant death-rate equals 110 against 103 for 1919 (see Table IA.).

Mortality among Children under 5 years.—The total number of deaths of all children under 5 years is 111 against 79 for 1919—an increase of 32. The death-rate of this group is 5 per 1,000 population against 3.7 for 1919. It will be seen from these figures that while mortality in children was much higher in 1920 than in the previous year, it was lower in the age groups over five years—184 with a population of 22,110 against 206 with a smaller population of 21,263.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—This work in our district is confined to the visitation of the Health Visitor to the homes of the children, and where possible, visiting also expectant mothers. In addition, we have a weekly meeting of the mothers and their babies at the Baby Centre held in the Congregational Sunday School. The babies have their weights recorded and every infant is carefully scrutinized, and in those cases showing loss of weight are examined by myself. Where treatment is necessary the mothers are referred to their family doctor. In all cases they are advised what steps to take. The Centre is much appreciated by the mothers. Attempts are made to get the expectant mothers to attend, but so far not successfully.

We are waiting for the full scheme of the County Council for the initiation of real maternity work by the institution of Maternity Hospitals, Homes and Treatment Centres.

Particular attention is paid by the Health Visitor in the cases of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children, and in the cases where exceptional difficulties arise in the care of the child. Help is given by the Committee from a voluntary fund where special treatment is necessary—as in going to the special hospitals in Liverpool,

In the Health Visitor's report attached, particulars are given of visits made for investigation of still-births and infant deaths. Also every case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is visited by Miss Cragg (Health Visitor), and help given by her in carrying out the treatment prescribed by the Medical Attendant. These cases are seen by her twice a day during the period of treatment.

Infectious Diseases.—In addition to the observations made under the mortality statement, I wish to call attention to Tables II. and IIA. These show the position of the district regarding the run of infectious diseases during the year. Table II. shows the age incidence as well as the incidence in each Ward of the district. Table IIA. is a condensed statement of the same figures.

The year 1920 was a more favourable year than 1919. Whereas in the latter period there was a total of 472 notifications while in the former there were only 274, *i.e.*, 200 less. The reduction is mainly in Scarlatina, Diphtheria, and Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria.—As I have previously stated, the cases of this disease were mostly of a mild character, and were all treated in hospital. In every case there was early notification with prompt removal to hospital and immediate administration of Anti-toxin. Anti-toxin (Anti-Diphtheria serum) is stocked at the hospital, and is obtainable free by the medical practitioners in the district. During 1920 there were used 40 vials of 4,000 units and 13 of 2,000 units.

Enteric.—Eight cases notified, and all removed to hospital for isolation and treatment.

Erysipelas.—Five cases notified, 4 of which were treated at home and 1 in a general hospital.

Pneumonia (all forms of).—Ninety-two cases notified. The distribution of these will be seen by reference to Table II. Although we have allotted a block of the Infectious Diseases Hospital limited to six beds, no case was admitted for treatment.

Malaria.—Little is seen of this disease now; only 3 cases were notified, all of the relapsing type, contracted abroad.

Dysentery.—No notification of this disease during the year.

Tuberculosis.—This disease is under the control of the County Council, and we assist the Officers of that Authority by making weekly returns to the County Medical Officer of Health, and a duplicate copy of each return to the Chief Tuberculosis Officer for the area. On notification of this disease the Sanitary Inspector makes an inspection of the home of the patient and his environment, and the usual steps taken for prompt remedy of the defects.

During the year 34 cases were reported, 25 of the pulmonary type and 9 non-pulmonary. * See Table II. for distribution.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.—Owing to a more normal rainfall during the year the difficulties of water supply met with in 1919 did not occur. Certain improvements in the reservoirs gave a larger storage capacity, in consequence of which there was a regular supply throughout the year.

As stated in previous reports, the supply is from two sources, viz., (a) from our own waterworks and gathering grounds in North Ashton, and (b) from the Rivington Waterworks of the Liverpool Corporation, the mains of which pass through our township. The supply from the latter is limited by agreement to 100,000 gallons per day. Normally, both supplies are of satisfactory quality, and allow of an average of something like 11 gallons per head a day. The Council have in hand certain steps for improving the supply, and thus obviating the effects of any unusual dryness in the future.

Rivers and Streams.—Millingford Brook, running through the centre of the district in a south-east direction, is the only stream of any importance. It is subject to pollution from the collieries, and in times of storm, and to the effects of dislocation of the sewers from subsidence.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The system is a satisfactory one, but is subject to dislocation at times by reason of mining subsidence changing the fall in certain parts of the district, particularly in Bolton Road and Bryn Road sections.

The Sewage Disposal Works are of recent construction, and are of good modern type. They take and deal with almost the whole of the sewage of the district in a very satisfactory manner. A really good effluent has been maintained during the whole of the year.

Closet Accommodation.—The pail system is the one that is general throughout the district, but not accepted as a satisfactory condition of affairs by the Sanitary Committee. Conversion on a large scale, however, is not practicable, as it would necessitate a re-arrangement of sewers and a greatly increased water supply. I am hoping, however, in the quite near future a start will be made in selected blocks of property. All new property will contain fresh water closets.

At the end of the year there were 3748 pail closets, 503 fresh water closets, and 25 waste water closets.

Scavenging.—This is undertaken by the Council. The work is done during the day, which is not a satisfactory proceeding, though at present the only practicable method. The refuse from the ashpits is carted to depots in various parts of the district, away from housing property, screened and mixed with pail contents, and then sold to neighbouring farmers. The bulk of the ashes is carried away and buried in the depressions. Any improvement of this method must be associated with the conversion suggested above. The ashpits, of which there are 2,950, should have substituted for them metal ashbins of a portable character.

Sanitary Inspection.—Attached to this report is the Sanitary Inspector's report, and Table C. giving a classified statement of premises visited, defects noted, and the resulting action.

Schools.—These are under the County Education Committee. On the whole they are in a fairly satisfactory condition regarding ventilation, sanitation and water supply. The closets are w.c.s, with intermittent flushing, and the water supply is from the Council's service.

The accommodation is fully utilised, and a new school, probably of the Central type, is to be built at an early date.

There has not been any closure during the year due to infectious epidemics.

FOOD.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

Milk.—There has been an ample supply within the district during the year, produced mainly in the locality, though a certain amount is brought in by rail; also a large amount of condensed and dried milk is consumed by our population.

Samples are frequently taken by the County Officials, and found on the whole satisfactory.

With regard to the supply of milk to nursing mothers and children, under the Milk Orders, the Health Visitor and myself have used the authority given us by the Council to supply necessitous cases with milk, either at reduced prices or gratis, when satisfied of the need.

The attached report of the Health Visitor gives some details of the amount of this distribution.

The number of cowkeepers on the register is 34, dairies 4, and milkshops 2. All these premises are visited and kept under observation, and with one exception all are satisfactory.

Other Foods.—Foods exposed for sale at the week end in the Market are under supervision by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Bakehouses.—These premises are visited from time to time, and on the whole are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-houses.—There is only one, and this is frequently visited by your Sanitary Officials.

The following animals and parts were condemned as being unfit for human food:—

- 2 beasts (436lbs.) (Tuberculous parts).
- 16 sheep (652lbs.).
- Ox-tails (330lbs.).
- 67 pots of pressed meat.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of Medical Officer (part time), Sanitary Inspector, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and one Health Visitor. Two men to disinfect houses, schools, etc., and attend to the hospital ambulance.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Small-pox Hospital.—This is of the temporary type, built on brick foundations with body of wood and corrugated iron, and roofed with the same material. It accommodates eight beds. The situation of this hospital is not an ideal one, but serves its purpose very well, as it has not been required for a good many years.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bryn Road.—This consists of the old block, with eight beds for Enteric, divided into two wards of four beds each, and can if necessary be used for Pneumonia. The new buildings, of modern type, are built substantially of brick and stone. They consist of two large Scarlatina wards, accommodating 12 beds each, with two small wards for observation purposes, containing one bed each. There are the usual kitchens, bathrooms, etc., connecting the two larger wards; a Diphtheria block, consisting of two wards, each accommodating three or four beds, with kitchen, bathroom and offices. In addition there is the Administrative block, furnishing very comfortable quarters for Matron, Nursing Staff, and Domestics.

This hospital is replete with laundry, steam disinfecter, engine, and hot-water arrangements for the wards, etc.

The permanent staff consists of a Matron, two Staff Nurses, three Probationers, and an Engineman for looking after the engine, boiler, and steam disinfecter, and assisting in the maintenance of the buildings and grounds; also for the latter work assistance is given by one of the hands engaged in house disinfection and with the ambulance. Except in times of severe epidemics the hospital offers sufficient accommodation for the needs of the district.

There is no accommodation for the isolation of Measles, and I am not prepared to advocate the provision of this, particularly at the present time.

With regard to chemical and bacteriological aids to diagnosis of infectious diseases, we have an arrangement with the Bacteriological Department of the University of Liverpool, under Professor Beattie. From time to time, when necessary, samples of blood, throat swabs, etc., are sent up for examination and report. The examination of sputum in suspected cases of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the Tuberculosis Officers of the County.

Other Services.—There is now a Nursing Committee, formed by the Ashton-in-Makerfield Linen and Woollen Trust. It employs two District Nurses for general nursing purposes in the homes of our people. The Committee have an arrangement that your Medical Officer of Health may in times of epidemics make use of their services in any way deemed necessary for dealing with them.

HOUSING.

I. (1) The question of housing of the working classes is amongst many of the most important which has engaged the attention of the Council for some considerable time, affecting as it does the health and mortality of the district.

These factors alone are sufficient to give it a foremost place in the sanitary administration of the township.

During the war, and till recently, there was a total cessation of house building owing to the shortage of labour and the high cost of material, while many of the existing houses were allowed to get into a bad state of repair. These, however, are being systematically dealt with, and defects have been remedied in a good number of houses.

In addition, there is quite a number of very old houses which were reported to you and to the Ministry of Health in connection with the Survey of Housing Needs, under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919. These are generally insanitary and beyond repair, and should be demolished as soon as circumstances will permit.

The number of dwelling-houses in the district is 4,054, and of this number 3,874 are of the working-class type. One house which was in course of erection in 1919, was completed during the year and occupied.

This gives an average of five persons in each house, which viewed generally seems satisfactory.

(2) *Population.*—The figures given for the population at the last census (1911) were 21,543, in mid-year 1914, *i.e.*, pre-war, the estimate given was 22,687, and for the year 1920 the Registrar-General gives a population of 22,110. According to these figures it would appear that the population of the district has decreased since 1914 by 577 persons.

From general observation and frequent discussion, it does not appear that any serious development or addition to the industries of the district will take place which will effect a material increase of the population in the future as coal mining, which is the main industry of the township—and which has reached its height—will eventually decline as the measures are worked out. This factor will have to be borne in mind when considering further developments in housing.

(3) (a) *Extent of Shortage of Houses.*—Whilst there is a general shortage of houses throughout the district, the prevailing conditions are more imaginary than real. Quite true, there is a large number of houses occupied by two families, which were intended for the use of one family only, and this is undesirable for many reasons.

The actual condition, however, is not so grave as it would appear, as in most instances the capacity of the rooms in these houses afford the regulation air space for each person.

The shortage will not be materially alleviated for some time, as you will remember under the Survey of Housing Needs I reported approximately 200 houses as being unfit for human habitation.

Repairs have been executed in some of these houses, and it may be possible to put a few more into a habitable condition, but on the other hand, it will be necessary to deal with a large number of them under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, as they are both insanitary and in a bad state of repair.

(b) *Measures Taken to Meet the Shortage.*—Two schemes have been submitted and approved, comprising 200 dwelling-houses. The necessary work in connection with 80 of these houses has been in progress for a considerable time, and the near future should see a fair number of them occupied. Four are already completed and tenants residing in them.

II. *Overcrowding.* (1) *Extent.*—Although overcrowding would appear to be prevalent when we bear in mind the number of houses occupied by more than one family, this is not so to any great extent, for reasons given earlier in the report.

(2) *Causes*.—As I have reported to you before, the causes are more a question of custom and habit, and whilst a few cases are attributable to excess of lodgers and to very large families, others are brought about by marriages of sons or daughters who still prefer to live in the home.

(3) *Measures Taken*.—All cases of overcrowding coming under notice are visited and the premises inspected, and where opportunity affords a better distribution of the inmates is effected, so as to utilise all the available air space.

III. *Fitness of Houses*.—(1) (a) Speaking generally, the standard of housing in the district is satisfactory.

(b) The general character of the defects found in unfit houses is mostly due to subsidence caused by mining, and consist of cracked walls, broken plaster, defective floors and windows.

(2) *Action Taken as regards Unfit Houses under: (a) Public Health Acts, (b) The Housing Acts*.—Notice served on owners under the above Acts is generally sufficient to secure remediable measures being taken.

(3) Difficulty in remedying unfitness in houses is still experienced as the shortage of labour and the high cost of labour and material is still evident.

(4) *Conditions affecting Houses as regards Water Supply, Closet Accommodation, and Refuse Disposal*.—These matters have been dealt with earlier in the report, under the respective headings.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas: Housing Act, 1890, Part I. and Part II*.—(1) Matters coming within the scope of the above Act relative to unhealthy areas, have been left in abeyance. The unsettled conditions which have been prevailing for a considerable time, together with the need of additional accommodation for the working classes, have rendered it practically impossible to take active measures up to the present time.

(2) The same applies with reference to the conditions which were presented to you in my report in October, 1919, and until provision is made by the housing schemes nothing of a substantial nature can be accomplished in these areas.

(3) Only the ordinary type of complaint has been received during the year, that is, defective roofs, walls, or floors, etc.

V. *Bye-laws relating to Houses, Houses Let-in-Lodgings, &c.*—As previously referred to, revision of the bye-laws is necessary in order that new additions may be inserted and provision made for more adequate supervision of lodgers and dirty tenants.

VI. *General and Miscellaneous.*—No special measures have been taken during the year, apart from those already reported above.

VII. *Appendices.*—Statistics for the twelve months ended December 31st, 1920 :—

I. GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	... ..	22,110
(2) General death-rate	... ..	13·3
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	... ..	0·58
(4) Infantile mortality	... ..	11·0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	... ..	4,054
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	... ..	3,874
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	... ..	1

II. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	619
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	... ..	217
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	550

II.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	221
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	209
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit	
(a) by owners	129
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close...	Nil.

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 :*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Ordgrs were made	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

III. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement schemes under (a) Part I., or (b) Part II., of the Act of 1890 :

(1) Name of area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Acreage...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(3) Number of working-class houses in area...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919... Nil.

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer :

The Surveyor (Mr. Farrar) has been appointed to have charge of the Housing Schemes. His duties are those of Supervision and Advisory Officer.

In concluding this report, I again desire to emphasise the points I made in my last report, and also contained in the present one :—

- (1) The systematic conversion of the pails to w.c.s.
- (2) Substitution of portable metal ashbins for the present ashpits.
- (3) The completion of the making-up of back streets, passages and yards.

And to express my thanks to my fellow-officials for their support and kindness.

I remain,
Yours obediently,

HY. WINSTANLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1920 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Un-corrected Number	Nett Number	Rate	Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age	At all Ages
								Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11
1915 ...	21,709	610	610	28.0	350	16.12	1	96	357
1916 ...	21,202	607	607	25.3	276	13.0	2	61	104
1917 ...	21,101	529	532	22.6	225	10.6	2	53	99
1918 ...	20,457	554	555	24.2	331	16.7	7	59	106
1919 ...	21,263	510	511	23.07	242	11.3	6	53	103.7
1920 ...	22,110	694	698*	31.5	272	12.3	6	77	110.9
								295†	13.3

*577 Males, 321 Females.

†175 Males, 120 Females.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 6,251

At Census, 1911 : Total Population at all ages 21,543

Number of Inhabited Houses 4,088

Average number of Persons per House 5

DISTRICT OF ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

TABLE IA.

	Birth-rate.	Per 1,000 of Death-rate.	Population— Epidemic Death-rate.	Phthisis Death-rate.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
1920	31.5	13.3	1.35	0.58	110
1919	23.0	13.4	0.84	0.98	103
Mean of 10 years (1910-1919)	27.4	14.5	2.25	0.70	123
Increase or Decrease in 1920 on—					
Previous year	+8.5	—0.1	+0.51	—0.40	+7
Ten years' Average	+4.1	—1.2	—0.90	—0.12	—13

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920

District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Notifiable Diseases	At all Ages	Under 1	Number of Cases Notified at Ages—Years						Total Cases Notified in each Locality					Total Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of patients re-moved from district
			1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Upwards	Central Ward	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward		
Diphtheria (including Memb. Croup)	23	—	9	13	1	—	—	—	12	4	—	5	2	23	—
Scarlet Fever	101	—	35	60	4	1	1	—	38	8	7	39	9	87	—
Enteric Fever	8	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	2	—	5	—	8	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neon. ...	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	92	12	30	15	8	19	5	3	31	16	5	18	22	—	—
Malaria	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Anti-Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pulmonary T.B.	25	—	1	2	10	10	2	—	8	1	2	4	10	—	—
Other forms T.B.	9	—	1	6	1	—	1	—	3	4	1	—	1	—	—
Totals	274	19	76	97	29	38	11	4	98	38	17	74	47	118	—

TABLE II. (a)

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1920.

('To be forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health, together with Form "C.")

**Number of Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASES Notified, Removed to Hospital, etc.,
during the year 1920.**

District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

	Diphtheria and Membr. Group	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Bacterial Fever	Puerperal Fever	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Pollomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Malaria	Dysentery	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Influenza	Pneumonia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Measles and German Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	Chicken-pox	TOTAL
No. of Cases Notified	23	5	101	8	1	—	1	6	3	—	92	25	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	274
No. Removed to Hospital	23	—	87	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	118
No. of Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to the District	1	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7

*Not Notifiable.

(Signed) H. WINSTANLEY,

March 15th, 1921.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE III.

CAUSE OF, AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1920.

District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a)								Total Deaths whether 'Residents' or 'Non-Residents' in Institutions in the District (b)
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	
All Causes—Certified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	4	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	8	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	15	—	—	2	2	4	2	4	1
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	13	—	—	—	—	3	8	2	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	5
Rheumatic Fever.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	24	—	—	—	3	2	6	6	7
Bronchitis	26	4	—	2	—	—	1	3	16

TABLE III.—Continued.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1920.

District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a)										Total Deaths whether Residents or Non-Residents in Institution in the District (b)
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards		
Pneumonia (all forms)	46	15	12	2	3	—	5	7	2	—	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	19	13	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Alcoholism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	34	33	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	12	2	1	1	3	—	2	3	—	—	
Suicide	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	
Other defined Diseases	46	3	—	—	1	3	2	8	29	—	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	
Totals	295	77	20	16	16	17	34	49	66	—	

TABLE IIIA.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>								<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only)								175	120
1	Enteric Fever							3	1
2	Small-pox							—	—
3	Measles							5	4
4	Scarlet Fever							2	—
5	Whooping Cough							—	1
6	Diphtheria and Croup							1	—
7	Influenza							12	4
8	Erysipelas							2	—
9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis							6	7
10	Tuberculous Meningitis							1	—
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases							1	2
12	Cancer (Malignant Disease)							8	8
13	Rheumatic Fever							1	—
14	Meningitis							1	—
15	Organic Heart Disease							9	12
16	Bronchitis							16	8
17	Pneumonia (all forms)							30	15
18	Other Respiratory Diseases							1	3
19	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)							7	6
20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis							1	—
21	Cirrhosis of Liver							1	—
21a	Alcoholism							—	—
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease							3	4
23	Puerperal Fever							—	1
24	Parturition apart from Puerperal Fever							—	1
25	Congenital Debility, etc.							19	10
26	Violence apart from Suicide							10	1
27	Suicide							3	—
28	Other defined Diseases							32	31
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown							—	1
Special Causes (included above)—									
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever							—	—
	Poliomyelitis							—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age (total) ...								48	29
Illegitimate								2	4
TOTAL BIRTHS								377	321
Legitimate								360	302
Illegitimate								17	19

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths) 22,110

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, W.C.

April, 1921.

TABLE V.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY during the Year 1920.*(Provincial figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1920, have been used for the purposes of this Table.)*

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.							RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.	
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small- pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Diph- theria	Violence (under 2 years)	Diarrhea and Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales.....	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	8.3
Ninety-six Great Towns, in- cluding London (Census Po- pulations exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	10.4
One hundred and forty-eight Smaller Towns (Census Po- pulations 20,000-50,000) ...	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	7.8
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	9.5
Aslton-in-Makerfield.....	31.5	13.3	0.18	0.00	0.36	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.72	10.7

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TABLE C.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1920.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

Medical Officer of Health, Henry Winstanley—Salary as Medical Officer of Health, 31st December, 1920, £277. Amount of bonus, Nil. Is he a whole-time Officer? No.

Inspector of Nuisances, David Gamble—Salary as Inspector, 31st December, 1920, £398. Amount of bonus, Nil. Is he a whole-time Officer? Yes. If not, what other appointments does he hold? Nil.

Assistant Inspector of Nuisances, Thomas Whitter—Salary as Assistant Inspector, 31st December, 1920, £307 10s. 0d. Amount of bonus, Nil.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation? For Small-pox, wooden buildings on brick foundations, with corrugated-iron roof and coverings. For other Infectious Diseases, brick and stone buildings. Is it joint or otherwise? Not joint.

Number of Beds available for your District? For Small-pox, 8. For other Infectious Diseases, 40.

Disinfection. No. of houses disinfected, 202. Method (stato disinfectant used), Sulphur and Formalide. Are houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis, Yes; (b) Measles, No. Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise), steam. No. of articles disinfected, 1,066. Where is apparatus situated, the Hospital. If apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, &c., of patients not removed to the Hospital, Yes.

Are any Diseases notifiable other than those which are compulsorily notifiable (for instance Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken-pox, &c.)? No.

What Diseases have been specially prevalent? Measles and Whooping Cough. Period? First and last quarters of year.

No. of times School Closure adopted for: Scarlet Fever, nil; Whooping Cough, nil; Diphtheria, nil; Chicken-pox, nil; Measles, nil; Influenza, nil.

No. of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910? Nil.

Bacteriological Examinations. No. of Specimens examined: Blood, 10; Throat Swabs, nil; Sputum, 3; Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, nil; Milk, nil; Others, nil.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept within the District? Yes. If so, where? At the Hospital. Amount used during 1920? 40 vials, 4,000 units; and 13 vials, 2,000 units.

TABLE C.—Continued.

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article I. of the Regulations of 2nd September, 1910 ?	Yes.
Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article I. (3) a list of dwelling-houses, the "early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H., desirable" ?	Yes.
Has your Authority designated an Officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles (II.) and (III.) ?	Yes.
What Officer has been so designated ?	Inspector of Nuisances. Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained ?
Yes. Are these kept up-to-date ?	Yes.
Action taken under the Housing Acts :—	
(a) No. of dwelling-houses specially inspected during 1920 under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909, <i>i.e.</i> , with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation ?	217. Have the particulars of these inspections, as specified in Article II. (1) to (8), and Article III. (1) to (8), of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, been fully recorded ?
	Yes.
* (b) No. of dwelling-houses inspected under (a) which are considered unfit for human habitation ?	Nil.
* (c) No. of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders ?	Nil.
* (d) Closing Orders made ?	Nil.
(e) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders ?	129.
(f) No. of dwelling-houses put in a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders ?	Nil.
(g) No. of dwelling-houses demolished ?	Nil.
General character of defects found to exist ?	Broken walls, plaster, etc.
Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts, other than those inspected under (a) above. (Not including inspections <i>re</i> Nuisances, etc. See Note†.)	Nil.
† Visits to houses for purposes other than the Housing Acts should not be included here.	
* The particulars under (b), (c), and (d) should relate only to houses inspected under (a).	
If your Authority has a Housing Scheme, state what stage had been reached on December 31st, 1920, giving information under the following headings :—	
No. of Schemes submitted,	2. No. of Lay-outs : Submitted, 2 ; Approved, 2.
No. of Houses included in House Plans : Submitted,	200 ; Approved, 200.
No. of Houses : On which Work has commenced, 80 ; Completed, 4.	
No. of Houses built during 1920 by private enterprise ?	1.

TABLE C.—Continued.

Source of Water Supply ? What is its Condition ? Possibilities of Contamination ? Any Insufficiency, and where ? Nature of extensions (if any) during the year ?	Council's own gathering grounds and reservoirs, together with a regular supply of 100,000 gallons per day from Liverpool's Rivington Supply. Satisfactory, on the whole. Slight. Only in times of drought in West and South Wards. Nil.
Are Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of District ? How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses) ? If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night ? How is the Refuse disposed of ? Has a Destructor been provided ?	Yes. Sanitary Authority. None. Refuse carted to Depots, screened and mixed with pait contents, and sold to farmers. No.
Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment ? What is the character of the Drainage System ? Any developments during year ? Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system ? Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c. ?	Chemical and bacterial. Satisfactory. No developments. Only in remote rural parts of township. As required.
Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams ?	Nil.
Canal Boats : Number Inspected ?	None. Number of Infringements of Acts ? Nil.

TABLE C.—Continued

What is the condition of the— Bakehouses ? Slaughter-houses ? " " Lodging-houses ?	Good. No. ? 23. Good. No. ? 1. No. Registered ? 1. No. Licensed ? Nil. Has a Public Abattoir been provided ? No. No. ? Nil. Are they Registered ? Nil.
What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools ?	Fairly satisfactory.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected ? Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B. ? Amount of air space in cubic feet re- quired for each cow ? Cowkeepers ? Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers) ? Any arrangements for veterinary inspec- tion of dairy cows ? Give particulars. Action taken (if any) as to Tuberculous milk ?	Yes. What is their condition ? Fair. Yes. Are they enforced ? Yes. (a) Where cows are habitually grazed ? Nil. (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed ? 800 cubic feet. Total No. of Cowkeepers ? 34. No. on Register ? 34. No. of inspections during year ? 48. Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors ? 6. No. on Register ? 6. Yes. When necessary. Nil.
Inspection of Food— Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption— (a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts ? (b) Diseases, unsound, or unwhole- some meat (other than above) ? (c) Other foodstuffs ? No. of Legal Proceedings and result ?	(a) 2 beasts (436lbs.). (b) 16 sheep (652lbs.). Other meat (330lbs.). 41 ox-tails. 67 pots pressed meat. and 156 rabbits. (c) Nil. Nil.

TABLE C.—Continued.

Notices served—Nuisances ?	No. of Notices served : Informal, 339 ; Statutory, 211. No. of Nuisances abated, 1,337. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? Nil.
Closets and Ashpits.	Privy middens : No. of middens, nil. No. of closets attached to these middens, nil. No. of pail closets, 3,748. No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens), 2,950. No. of fresh-water closets, 503. No. of portable receptacles for refuse, 136. No. of waste-water closets, 25. No. of privy closets converted during 1920 : To fresh w.c.s, nil ; to waste w.c.s., nil ; to pails, etc., nil. No. of pail closets converted to : Fresh w.c.s., nil ; waste w.c.s. nil. No. of waste w.c.s converted to fresh w.c.s, nil. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion ? No. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property ? W.C.s.
Smoke.	No. of observations ? Nil. No. of legal proceedings taken and result ? Nil. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ?
Has the Authority adopted—	"The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890" ? Yes. "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907" ? Yes. "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890" ? Yes.
Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council ? State whether whole or part time ?	Yes. Whole time.
Qualifications of Health Visitor ?	C.M.B., Trained Nurse, and Health Certificate.
Has any, and if so, what action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work ?	Yes. Visiting homes by Health Visitor. Infant Welfare Class : Weekly meeting of two hours.

TABLE C.—Continued.

Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants ?	No formal scheme, but assistance given in necessitous cases.
Is there a District Nursing Association in the District ?	Yes. How many District Nurses employed ? 2.
If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work ?	Yes.
If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work ?	No.
Does the Association undertake— (a)*Midwifery cases ? (b) Monthly Nursing ?	No.
Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1920 ?	None.
Chief Sanitary requirements of District ?	Making-up of back streets. Conversion of pail closets to w.c. system. Elimination of ash pits.

*Attendance at confinements without a Medical Practitioner.

(Signed) HY. WINSTANLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 15th, 1921.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL OFFICES,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD, *February, 1921.*

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit the following report showing the work dealt with during the year ending December 31st, 1920.

NUISANCES.

Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances	
and complaints	1476
Nuisances discovered	1916
,, abated	1337
Notices issued (preliminary)	339
,, (statutory)	200
Re-visits to nuisances	1282
Other visits made	1877
Nuisances remaining on books, December 31st, 1920...	579

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective and damp walls	129
,, roofs and spouts	370
,, floors	93
,, slopstones	17
,, waste pipes	33
,, wall and ceiling plaster	181
,, windows and doors	178
,, firegrates	41
,, staircases	6
,, washing boilers	17
,, paving in yards	88
,, setting around yard gullies	24
,, w.c.s and flushing cisterns	8
,, ventilating pipes	17
,, pail and ashpit doors	68

Defective closet roofs, floors and doors	...	...	...	...	64
„ pail places	...	...	...	...	2
„ middensteads	...	...	...	...	3
„ water supply	...	...	...	...	2
„ surface drainage	...	...	...	...	9
No. of houses or parts of houses requiring cleansing...					181
„ choked and defective drains and gullies	...	...			136
„ dilapidated chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ closets and ashpits	...	...	...	...	35
„ „ yard walls and gates	...	...	...	...	14
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	6
Want of pail and ashpit doors	...	...	...	...	124
Workshops requiring limewashing	...	...	...	...	20
Foul piggeries	...	...	...	...	1
Gullies requiring covers	...	...	...	...	13
Downspouts requiring disconnecting	...	...	...	...	15
Choked air-inlets	...	...	...	...	6
Want of dustbins	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11

Only one slaughter-house has been in use during the year. This has been frequently visited and inspected ; numerous visits having been paid while slaughtering was in progress.

The under-mentioned animals, or parts of animals, were condemned as being unfit for human food :—

1	Cow (Tuberculosis), weight	436lbs.
1	Cow	„ 426lbs.
16	Sheep	„ 652lbs.
	Other meat	„ 330lbs.
150	Rabbits.	
41	Ox-tails.	
67	Pots of preserved meat.	

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACTS, 1909-1919.

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	217
„ defects discovered	...	...	...	...	883
„ defective and damp walls	...	...	...	...	81
„ „ roofs and spouts	...	...	...	...	178
„ „ floors	...	...	...	...	50

No. of defective slopstones	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
„ „ windows and doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
„ „ firegrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ washing boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ paving in yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ setting around gullies...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ w.c.s and flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ ventilating shafts	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ pail and ashpit doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ closet roofs, floors and doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ „ water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
.. choked and defective drains and gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ houses or parts requiring cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
„ dilapidated chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ closets and ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ yard walls and gates	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ downspouts requiring disconnecting	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ gullies requiring covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ choked air-inlets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Want of pail and ashpit doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACTS.

	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
Factories	24	1	Nil.
Workshops	60	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces	23	Nil.	Nil.
	107	1	Nil.

DEFECTS FOUND.

	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>
Want of cleanliness	20	20
Other defects	10	9

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Dressmakers and milliners	13
Tailors	3
Bakers and confectioners	23
Painters and plumbers	4
Joiners and builders	7
Shoeing smiths	2
Wheelwright	1
Cooper	1
Saddler	1
Motor and cycle repairers	3
Lock and hinge manufacturers	14
File cutters	2
Tool sharpener	1
Mineral water manufacturers	3
Sugar boiler	1
Laundries	2
Printer	1
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	2
Gasworks	1
Provender dealer	1
Boot, shoe and clog manufacturers	20
Cabinet maker	1

OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil.
Notified by H.M. Inspector... ..	2
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PREVENTION) ACT.

No. of houses disinfected	202
„ beds disinfected... ..	174
„ other articles disinfected	892
„ houses or parts cleansed and limewashed after infectious disease	29
„ visits to house <i>re</i> infectious disease	175
„ „ cleansing and limewashing	32

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS ORDER.

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected, and below are the details of the inspection :—

No. of cowsheds on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
„ dairies on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ milkshops on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

DEFECTS DISCOVERED.

Defective paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ middensteads	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Requiring limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dilapidated outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SHOPS ACTS.

No. of shops on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	362
„ visits to shops (day)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	423
„ „ (night)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Cautioned for not exhibiting Closing Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Cautioned for not having form (Assistants' Half-holiday)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cautioned for selling after closing hours	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

DAVID GAMBLE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT,

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES, *March, 1921.*

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit to you the following for the year 1920 :—

Total Births notified, 716. Live births 686, Still-births 30, Illegitimate births 34, Notified by doctors 36, notified by Midwives 680.

Home Visits.—First visits to infants 674, re-visits to infants 2,544.

Other Visits.—Visits to school children 185, re-visits to school children 118. Special visits *re* sanitary condition, and other matters, 42.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified 6, visits 70. Two cases were cured and are now satisfactory. Two cases were cured and died: (age three months); registered cause of death Diarrhœa; (age six months); registered cause of death Pneumonia. Two cases died: (age three weeks); registered cause of death Debility; (age seven months); registered cause of death *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*.

Five cases of discharging eyes, not notified as *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*, are now in a satisfactory condition.

Puerperal Fever visited, 1. *Puerperal Sapræmia* visited, 1.

Infant Mortality Investigations, 77.

<i>Ages.</i>	<i>Table showing Method of Feeding.</i>
9 less than 1 day.	14 no feeding.
7 ,, 1 week.	20 wholly breast-fed.
12 ,, 1 month.	30 mixed feeding.
6 1 month.	13 artificially-fed.
43 over 1 month, less than 1 year.	
77	77

Workshops Visited, where women only are employed, 17.

Sanitary Defects were reported to the Sanitary Inspector.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

No. of times Centre was opened	...	...	...	44
No. of actual attendances	...	...	...	1,893
New infants joining	...	...	...	229
Average No. of attendances for 1919	...	...	25	
„	„	1920	...	43

Short addresses and demonstrations have been given on hygiene and infant care.

Clothing of hygienic material and shape are cut out ready for making and sold to the mothers.

Wool and woollen garments are sold ; the knitting of the woollen garments is done by voluntary helpers.

This part of the work is in charge of one of the ladies of the Committee, and the improvement in the children's clothing proves its success.

The clothing made and given by the pupils of the Grammar School for the poor of the district, has been very much appreciated.

Voluntary Funds.—From these funds 11 grants have been made in money to parents for travelling expenses when taking children to hospital for special treatment ; also to families in urgent need. A few grants have been made in clothing.

The Christmas Party was given in January, 1921. Six mothers receiving prizes from the ladies of the Committee, having made 18 or more attendances during the last half-year.

Foods Supplied at the Centre.—"Glaxo" sold, 2,127lbs. at 2/2 per lb., £230 8s. 6d. ; 606lbs. at 2/4 per lb., £70 14s. 0d. Total £301 2s. 6d. "Glaxo" free, 225lbs. at 2/2 per lb., cost £24 7s. 6d. ; 61lbs. at 2/4 per lb., cost £7 2s. 4d. Total £31 9s. 10d.

"Cow and Gate" milk sold, 298lbs. at 2/3 per lb., £33 10s. 6d. ; 95lbs. at 2/5 per lb., £11 9s. 7d. Total £45 0s. 1d.

Sugar sold, 62lbs. at 8d. per lb., £2 1s. 4d. ; 48lbs. at 10d. per lb., £2 0s. 0d. Total £4 1s. 4d.

"Virol" has been given to necessitous cases.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the ladies of the Committee, Miss Westrap, and the District Nurses, for the help given at the Clinic. Owing to the greater number of attendances the work has greatly increased during the last year for all helpers.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

L. CRAGG,

Health Visitor.